

I. HIV Community Prevention Section

a. California AIDS Clearinghouse

The California AIDS Clearinghouse (CAC) is the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS repository and distribution resource center for HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention, HIV Counseling and Testing, and the California AIDS Prevention Campaign materials. Additionally, CAC provides access to health education information services and technical assistance on communicating health education messages through materials development. Annually, the Clearinghouse publishes a HIV/AIDS resource directory - a comprehensive guide to California HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention, HIV Counseling and Testing, Early Intervention, AIDS Drug Assistance, AIDS Case Management and Medi-Cal Waiver Programs. The California AIDS Clearinghouse Web site is (<http://www.hivinfo.org>).

b. Statewide Community Planning Process

In 1999, the California HIV Planning Group (CHPG) completed its first year as a merged working group addressing education, prevention and care issues statewide. The CHPG is composed of people living with HIV/AIDS, community advocates, public health officers and representatives from communities of color.

The *California HIV Prevention Plan* is used by the CHPG as a blueprint for implementation of local education and prevention programs. In 1999, the Group also considered newly emerging issues such as hepatitis C and Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). The Resource Allocation Committee of the CHPG was actively involved in making recommendations to the Office of AIDS regarding funding allocations for HIV/AIDS services for communities of color.

In collaboration with the Universitywide AIDS Research Program, the Office of AIDS developed a 5-year strategic plan for evaluating the CHPG. In 1999, the first year evaluation was completed, which assessed member satisfaction with the CHPG process. The response to the CHPG's merged planning efforts was overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic. During the upcoming year, evaluation work will focus on support for community planning at the local level.

c. Local HIV Prevention Community Planning

Local health jurisdictions have organized to form Local Planning and Implementation Groups, comprised of health department staff, representatives from community-based organizations, and advocates from the communities served. Each group developed a local HIV prevention plan as a blueprint for implementing local education and prevention programs. This process has strengthened the partnership and collaboration between the public and private AIDS sectors in an ongoing effort to prevent HIV transmission in California. The Office of AIDS continues to provide local health jurisdictions with guidance and time lines for planning activities to assess the implementation of their HIV prevention plans and to measure the progress and success of their local planning groups. Office of AIDS staff provide technical assistance to local health jurisdictions and local planning and implementation groups to help them implement their local HIV prevention plans and address new requirements for ongoing community planning. In late March 2000, local planning groups will have the opportunity to showcase their local prevention plans at the National Community Planning Leadership Summit for HIV Prevention.

d. Multicultural Liaison Board

The Office of AIDS established the Multicultural Liaison Board (MLB) in September 1991 to promote cultural awareness and offer advice regarding needs and barriers to providing HIV/AIDS education and prevention services to communities of color. The MLB develops recommendations and policies for providing effective education, prevention, and care and treatment services for people of color infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Currently the MLB is composed of twelve members representing the African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino/a and Native American communities.

Accomplishments of the MLB include:

- Developing a linkage to local implementation groups and the local health department;
- Guiding programmatic development pertaining to implementation policies and programs for people of color;
- Developing and disseminating the document *'Frameworks for Change,'* which outlines needs of people of color; and
- Instituting a needs assessment pilot project for African American women in San Diego County.

Future goals of the MLB include:

- Strengthening linkage between the CHPG by adding an MLB-appointed seat to the CHPG board;
- Continuing in a strong advisory capacity to the Office of AIDS
- Continuing to be an integral part of the CHPG and reaching out to constituents;
- Collecting, analyzing and disseminating results of the pilot project
- Instituting needs assessment pilot projects for Native American, Asian/Pacific Islander and Latino/a populations.

e. Education and Prevention Program Funding

As a result of the statewide *California HIV Prevention Plan* and the implementation of HIV Prevention Community Plans, the Office of AIDS awarded education and prevention funds to all 61 health jurisdictions in California. Of the 61 health jurisdictions, five northern California counties have formed two separate regional local implementation groups. Local implementation groups are comprised of representatives from local health jurisdictions, community-based organizations, and affected or infected members of the community they serve.

The following six were identified as priority target populations for local community planning:

- Substance users and their sex partners;
- Gay and bisexual men of all ages and ethnicities;
- Sex industry workers;
- Youth and adolescents;
- People of color; and
- Transgender/transvestite individuals.

The Office of AIDS allocated more than \$17 million in education and prevention funds in FY 1999-00 as follows:

- \$50,000 baseline funding to 17 rural local health departments to continue implementing their education and prevention services; and
- \$16.2 million to maintain the current level of funding for local health departments providing education and prevention services based on their local community planning process.

The Office of AIDS, HIV Education and Prevention Services Branch contracts with California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), Center for Behavioral Research and Services to provide technical assistance to local health jurisdictions/local implementation groups for outreach, behavioral intervention training and studies of new HIV testing technologies. CSULB has a diverse pool of consultants, trainers, and staff that work collaboratively with the Office of AIDS, HIV Education and Prevention Services Branch to plan, implement, and evaluate individual programs, and HIV/AIDS education and prevention services in California.

The Office of AIDS received funds from the Budget Act of Fiscal Year 1999/00 to develop and expand HIV education and prevention services for women, people of color, high-risk youth, and high-risk MSM. Funds were distributed to Local Health Departments in a variety of methods, as part of the state's

ongoing commitment to continually adapt and/or develop programs and services to meet the changing needs and priorities of the epidemic.

- Based on a formula developed by the Resource Allocation Committee of the CHPG, a total of \$2 million was allocated to 20 local health departments (LHD) for services to communities of color. The formula awarded funds to LHDs based on the number of recently diagnosed AIDS cases in people of color and an overrepresentation of AIDS cases in people of color when compared to the general population.
- The Office of AIDS released four high-risk initiative Request for Applications (RFA), totaling \$4.35 million, for HIV/AIDS-related services for women, people of color, high-risk youth and MSM. Program implementation is targeted for early 2000.
- A portion of the FY 1999/00 funds was made available to LHDs on a one-time basis for special expenditures that target the identified populations. Examples of these expenditures include outreach materials, social marketing events, mobile vans, needs assessments and/or updating epidemiologic profiles.

f. School-Based Health Education

State law requires schools to provide HIV/AIDS prevention instruction at least once in junior high or middle school and once in high school, unless the parent or guardian requests the pupil not attend. The Office of AIDS has an interagency agreement with the Department of Education to provide a school-based program using a variety of components to provide HIV/AIDS prevention education. One component is the Positively Speaking Program, which trains people with HIV/AIDS to give classroom presentations. Another component awards grants to California school districts to implement an education and prevention program in partnership with a community-based AIDS organization or local health department. In FY 1999-00, there were 35 grant recipients.

Additionally, the Healthy Kids Resource Center provides educational materials for free loan to educators to assist in establishing comprehensive health education programs. The Center publishes a catalog of available materials, organized by area of interest and grade level (<http://www.hkresources.org>).

g. Community Health Outreach Worker Training

The Office of AIDS contracts with the Institute for Community Health Outreach (ICHO) to train community health outreach workers (CHOWs) for Office of AIDS education and prevention contractors. CHOWs provide health education services to high-risk populations such as injection drug users, their sexual partners and high-risk youth. ICHO has trained over 2,000 people from more than 200 agencies throughout the world and their training has become an international model for this type of outreach intervention.

To meet community needs, ICHO continually expands the scope of its training, developing innovative health education strategies for outreach to MSM (gay-identified or not), women of childbearing age, sex industry workers, injecting and non-injecting drug users, runaways, gang members, the homeless, immigrant workers, transsexuals, transvestites, and communities of color. All ICHO trainings emphasize multicultural competence in serving clients of different sexual orientations and racial/ethnic origins.